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President William J. Clinton
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The introduction of genetically altered foods into the American food supply without labeling deeply troubles me. I am writing to urge you to step into the debate on this issue on the side of American consumers so that we may make an informed decision on such matters of basic dietary concern.

I think Americans in recent years are feeding themselves on what amounts to an experimental diet, with all the additives and alterations supplemented in foodstuffs. No one knows what the long-term effects are going to be: we do know from the recent past that we are not above being harmed by some changes. We cannot blithely accept the recommendation of organizations whose reason for the most recent changes in foods ultimately remains the profit motive. Consumers should at the very least be informed of the constituents of their foods when they are treated or altered, and those known harmful additives or processes should be eliminated by law. If the agri-companies want to sell an engineered or irradiated product, let them take a campaign with proof of the alteration's benignity directly to the American public without what amounts to an a priori assurance of goodness made by the Congress.

Please use your powers to insure that the citizens of this nation keep the determination for this most basic requirement of human society within their own hands. Labeling in our day, when a tomato is debatably no longer a tomato, should constitute as much an inalienable right as a person's birth into liberty and equality. To change the natural product so intrinsically without being required to tell us, amounts to a disenfranchisement of our natural entitlements.

I am a Democrat, I voted for you twice, and I very rarely write politicians. But I am unimpressed by the agricultural interests' arguments why we should be kept ignorant of their alternations to our foods. I feel compelled to write. Please step into this affair.

Sincerely,


Peter Romanow

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